

U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) requested clarification on a new law that could severely affect the current inventory of local Oregon toy businesses in a letter to U.S. Consumer Product and Safety Commission Chairwoman Nancy Nord sent on Wednesday.

Blumenauer is seeking clarification on the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA), a near-unanimous bill passed in the House last summer which seeks to strictly limit the amount of toxic material in children's toys. The new law takes affect next month, and has Oregon businesses worried that their current and future stock of toys may not be able to be sold.

"My district is home to many small businesses that by provide sustainable, high-quality, hand-made toys and clothing for children. Many of these toys are locally-made, not mass produced or imported from factories in China," Blumenauer wrote. "While businesses understand that there is an exemption for certain materials that inherently don't include lead or phthalates, such as cotton or wood, they are requesting clarification on what the requirements are for testing products that are primarily made of exempted material, but contain other components as well,"

CPSIA was passed by congress this past July in response to citizen concerns regarding the lead content in many children's toys being imported from abroad. Blumenauer, along with every House member except U.S. Rep. Ron Paul (R-Texas), voted for the initiative.

"While I stand behind the intent of legislation, the devil is in the details" Blumenauer wrote. "How this legislation is implemented could have dire impacts on small businesses in my district, throughout the state of Oregon, and around the country."